

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02
SMS-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /104 W
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O 241754Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8052
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 05544

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PEPR, PFOR, GE, UN,US
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
- DISCRIMINATION: DEMARCHE TO THE GDR
REF: A. STATE 211463, B. STATE 213810, C. BERLIN 5298.

1. I DELIVERED OUR CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET-EASTERN
EUROPEAN PROPOSAL TO ACTING DEPFONMIN ROSE AUGUST 24.
AIDE MEMOIRE DID NOT CONTAIN THE PHRASE (PARA 2 REF A),
"THE DIFFERENCES IN VIEW OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES WERE FRANKLY
ACKNOWLEDGED." NO DIFFERENCES IN VIEW WERE ORIGINALLY
DISCUSSED HERE AND NONE ACKNOWLEDGED.
2. I TOLD AMBASSADOR ROSE THAT I HAD REQUESTED AN
APPOINTMENT ON AUGUST 21 TO DELIVER AIDE MEMOIRE
CONTAINING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENTS
AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
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DISCRIMINATION.
3. I RECALLED MY DISCUSSION WITH ROSE ON AUGUST 15 AND
EMPHASIZED THAT WASHINGTON WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE
GDR'S CO-SPONSORSHIP AT GENEVA OF A PROPOSAL EQUATING
ZIONISM WITH RACISM AND CONTAINING OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE ABOUT
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES. I SAID WE
REGRETTED THE ACTION OF THE GDR DELEGATION. WE BELIEVED

IT WOULD BE REGRETTED BY ALL THOSE WHO THOUGHT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD DEVOTE ITS EFFORTS TO THE IMMENSE TASK OF ELIMINATING THE EVILS OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. I TOLD ROSE THAT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GDR DELEGATION AT GENEVA BY JOINING IN SUPPORT OF A PROPOSAL CONTAINING OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE SUBSTANCE AND TONE OF OUR INITIAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. IT WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE CANDOR WE EXPECT IN OUR RELATIONS. I THEN HANDED ROSE THE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH HE READ. I ALSO LEFT BEHIND A COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S AUGUST 18 STATEMENT.

4. IN REPLY ROSE APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY FOR NOT SEEING ME EARLIER, SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN BUSY ON A MISSION CONCERNING UN MATTERS. HE REITERATED THAT THE GDR IS AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHEREVER IT OCCURS. ROSE SAID AT THE TIME OF OUR MEETING ON AUGUST 15 HE WAS NOT AWARE OF HOW THINGS WOULD DEVELOP AT GENEVA. ROSE CLAIMED HE HAD NOT YET SEEN THE SOVIET-EASTERN EUROPEAN PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE GDR'S BASIC PRINCIPLE OF OPPOSING RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, THE GDR SAW NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES OF OTHERS. HE SAID MANY STATES HAD TAKEN SUCH INITIATIVES AT THE CONFERENCE. THE SOVIET-EASTERN EUROPEAN PROPOSAL WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE; IN ANY CASE IT WAS A WORKING PAPER TO HELP ELABORATE THE FINAL DOCUMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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ROSE SAID SO FAR AS HE KNOWS THE FINAL DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN AGREED UPON AT GENEVA. HE STATED THAT THE GDR SAW NO REASON WHY ITS POSITION SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF OTHERS AT GENEVA SHOULD IN ANY WAY AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. I TOLD ROSE THAT AS I HAD INDICATED EARLIER, THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE UNITED NATIONS' EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE EVILS OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. IT WAS OUR EARNEST HOPE THAT NO DECISIONS OR ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AT THE CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD DIVERT ACTION FROM THIS EFFORT. WE HAD APPROACHED THE GDR IN A STRAIGHT-FORWARD MANNER TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN. I TOLD ROSE THAT ANY REAFFIRMATION OF THE ZIONISM-RACISM-DECADE LINKAGE WAS BOUND TO FURTHER SHAKE THE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS AS AN INSTRUMENT TO PROMOTE PEACE AND PROGRESS. I RECALLED THAT THE CONGRESS HAD IN FACT PASSED A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT WE NOT PARTICIPATE UNTIL THE ZIONISM-RACISM-DECADE LINKAGE WAS SEVERED.

6. I AGAIN REMINDED ROSE OF THE SUBSTANCE AND THRUST OF

OUR CONVERSATION AND TOLD HIM QUITE FRANKLY THAT IF THE GDR HAD PLANNED TO TAKE ACTION IN SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVE OF OTHERS, WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED. I ADDED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR FEELINGS ON ZIONISM-RACISM, ONE OF OUR MAIN CONCERNS WAS THE LACK OF CANDOR. I NOTED SOME GDR OFFICIALS HAD POINTED OUT TO ME THAT THE LACK OF CONFIDENCE AND MUTUAL TRUST WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS. I SAID THAT LACK OF CANDOR DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. I TOLD ROSE THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO DEVELOP

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 05544

GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT; IN MAKING THIS POINT I DID NOT INTEND TO SUGGEST THAT THE SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND COUNTRIES WHICH CO-SPONSORED THE PROPOSAL. I RECALLED THAT ROSE HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN CONSULTATIONS WITH US AT UN CONFERENCES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE THESE CONVERSATIONS WOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY CANDOR AND FRANKNESS.

7. ROSE SEEMED A BIT SHAKEN AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD GO ABOUT THIS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN A WAY SO AS

NOT TO BURDEN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND NON-INTERVENTION IN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I NOTED THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY
WAS A CENTRAL COMPONENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. THE POLICY
APPLIED TO ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED
STATES. I NOTED THAT IN MY PREVIOUS POSITION IT WAS MY
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DUTY TO HELP CARRY OUT SUCH A POLICY IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
I STATED THAT SUCH A POLICY WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY
PARTICULAR COUNTRY; AS HE WELL KNEW, WE DO NOT
CONSIDER THE WAY A COUNTRY TREATS ITS OWN CITIZENS TO BE A
MATTER WITHIN THE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF ANY STATE
WHICH HAD SIGNED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT OR THE U.N.
CHARTER. IT WAS MY HOPE THAT WE COULD DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS
IN A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION AND NOT AS A
MATTER OF IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION. I SAID THE U.S. WAS
PREPARED TO DO SO. ROSE NODDED AND APOLOGIZED FOR THE
DELAY IN RECEIVING ME.

8. COMMENT: ROSE WAS CLEARLY EMBARRASSED AND DID HIS
UTMOST TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON THE GDR LACK OF
CANDOR. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE
IMPACT OF THEIR POSITION ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND SOUGHT
TO CONVEY THE NOTION THAT THE GDR DELEGATION WAS
MERELY SUPPORTING THE POSITION OF OTHERS IN ACCORD WITH
ITS GENERAL POLICY OF OPPOSING RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMI-
NATION. HE DID NOT GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THE GDR WAS
SUPPORTING SOVIET OR OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVES,
BUT I FOUND HIS ASSERTION OF NOT HAVING SEEN THE TEXT OF
THE SOVIET-EASTERN EUROPEAN PROPOSAL STRANGE IN THE EXTREME.
AT THE SAME TIME, HIS REMARKS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE
SOME OF MY OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES HAVE HEARD
FROM HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
PERHAPS THE SOVIETS DID SPRING IT ON THE EASTERN EUROPEAN
DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA AT THE LAST MINUTE. BOLEN

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